

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW

APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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R 040420Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

S E C R E T STATE 296192

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, GV, US, UR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH GUINEAN AMBASSADOR ON PL-480,
SOVIET FLIGHTS AND GUINEAN SECURITY

1. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 GUINEAN AMBASSADOR HABIB BAH CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE. HE STATED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF HIS CALL WAS TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PL-480 AGREEMENT FOR 10,000 TONS OF RICE SIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 22 IN CONAKRY WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD TO BE AN ADVANCE ON THE FY 77 PL-480 PROGRAM.

2. AMBASSADOR SEELYE NOTED THAT WE HAD SUPPLIED GUINEA WITH PL-480 COMMODITIES FOR MANY YEARS. IT WAS OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE THE NORMAL PL-480 PROGRAM. WITH REGARD TO THE DEAL FOR 10,000 TONS OF RICE, SEELYE RECALLED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH THE GUINEAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK, NOTING THAT THE IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE FLIGHTS AFTER SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT HAD CAUSED US PROBLEMS. SEELYE NOTED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE CONVENIENT TO RECEIVE

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A GUINEAN DELEGATION TO DISCUSS PL-480 UNTIL EARLY NEXT

YEAR. WE WOULD CONTACT THE GUINEAN EMBASSY IN SEVERAL WEEKS TO FIX A DATE.

3. SEELYE ALSO NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR HARROP HAD TOLD

THE GOG THAT WE HAD STUDIED THE EXTERNAL THREATS TO GUINEA'S SECURITY, IN CONSULTATION WITH GUINEA'S NEIGHBORS, AND CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO CREDIBLE EXTERNAL THREAT TO GUINEA. AMBASSADOR BAH MAINTAINED THAT GUINEA WAS THREATENED BY IVORY COAST AND SENEGAL. HE STATED THAT THE SOVIET FLIGHTS HAD RESUMED AFTER SIGNING OF THE SEPTEMBER 22 AGREEMENT BECAUSE WE HAD NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE TO GUINEA'S REQUEST FOR A SECURITY GUARANTEE IN RETURN FOR TERMINATION OF THE FLIGHTS. SEELYE NOTED THAT WHILE WE SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE SECURITY GUARANTEES. HE ASSURED AMBASSADOR BAH THAT WE ARE CONCERNED FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GUINEA AS OUR COUNTRIES HAVE HAD CLOSE RELATIONS FOR SOME TIME. WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT FOR GUINEA BUT QUESTION GUINEA'S NON-ALIGNMENT WHEN THE GOG ALLOWS USE OF ITS TERRITORY AS A BASE FOR SOVIET INTELLIGENCE FLIGHTS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MENTION OF COMMANDER BOHAN'S ATTENDANCE AT THE NOVEMBER 22 CELEBRATION, AMBASSADOR BAH INDICATED THAT HE WAS PLEASED THAT COMMANDER BOHAN WAS ABLE TO COME. SUCH CONTACTS ARE FRUITFUL TO US-GUINEA RELATIONS.

5. AMBASSADOR BAH SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE MEETING TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND AWAIT FURTHER WORD FROM US ABOUT A POSSIBLE DATE IN THE NEW YEAR FOR THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF A GOG PL-480 TEAM.

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